



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

November 21, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

North Santiam Room at 5155 Silverton Road NE, Salem, Oregon

PRESENT: Members: Sandy Grulkey, Marty Heyen, Anton Hoover, Ryan Mann, Wayne Rawlins
Board Liaison: Sam Brentano
Staff: Brian May, Russ Dilley, Jolene Bray
Guests: Anna Rankin, Pudding River Watershed Council; Ron Garst, Pudding River Watershed Council; Kregg Smith, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ABSENT: Member: Josh Faulkner, Kyleen Zimmer

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Call to Order: 1:05 p.m.

Wayne called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves. He told Commissioner Brentano he was sorry to hear he was retiring and wished him well.

Scotts Mills Discussion

Sandy read from the May 21, 2015, meeting minutes where the previous Public Works director said that while Marion County Business Services owns the dam, Parks staff maintain it. She said she intends to make a motion that the commission recommend the removal of the Scotts Mills Dam to the board of commissioners, and leave specification to others. She said its due diligence and in the Parks Master Plan.

Anna Rankin and Ron Garst are both with the Pudding River Watershed Council and have been working for past several years on the dam removal issue. Craig Smith is the fish passage coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and has statewide responsibility for artificial obstructions on waterways. He works with dam removals and designing fish ladders/passage. Anna provided a presentation on the dam removal, and said the watershed council and ODFW are working together on this project. She said their vision is to improve recreational value, decrease risks to public, take action on local restoration goals, collaborate with landowners, and communicate the value of the project.

The commission members and Commissioner Brentano discussed options for removal and maintenance of the dam with the guests. Commissioner Brentano said he was originally opposed to the removal but the letter from the City of Scotts Mills is significant to him and has altered his opinion. Anna said the original deed is filed with the Marion County Clerk's Office that conveys ownership to Marion County from Portland General Electric, and doesn't exempt the county from maintenance or responsibility. Sandy said some people want to challenge the county on a navigability issue.

Wayne asked Anna what she wants of the commission today. Anna said she wants the commission to propose the removal of dam. Alton asked if the property owner who owns half the dam is assisting with cost. Anna said they have enough funds to do the removal without county contribution so they're only asking permission to remove.

After some discussion Sandy made a motion that the Parks Commission recommend to the Marion County Board of Commissioners that they approve the removal of the dam on Butte Creek in Scotts Mills in the Marion County Park. Marty seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Brian said the next step is a work

session meeting with the BOC to update them on this and the watershed people will be invited to attend along with staff. Wayne thanked Sandy for her work on this project and said he hoped we received a positive response from the board.

Approval of March 21 and September 19, 2019, Meeting Minutes

Sandy made a motion to approve the March 21 meeting minutes and Marty seconded the motion. Sandy, Marty, Anton, and Wayne voted to approve the motion, and Ryan abstained because he didn't attend this meeting.

Marty made a motion to approve the September 19 meeting minutes. Sandy seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Public Input

None.

Commission Member Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Sandy said this is her last meeting since her term is ending but she may continue attending as a member of the public.

Bylaws Review

The commission reviewed the commission's bylaws with staff and made some minor changes to the wording. Marty made a motion to accept the bylaws as amended. Alton seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Brian said he will update the board about the updated bylaws at the Work Session scheduled to discuss the Scotts Mills Dam removal.

STAFF UPDATES

Staff Updates

Russ provided a photo presentation of the 2019 projects completed by parks staff. He said camping increased by almost 200 nights at Bear Creek Park & Campground. Russ said revenues went up but parking fees along North Fork Road were down by almost \$7,000, which they attribute to the mild weather in 2019.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Future Meeting Topics

- Wayne asked about providing a county ethics review for new commission members. Brian said ethics handbooks and handouts will be provided to new members.
- Brief discussion about changing the meeting date and/or time because of periodic trouble getting a quorum. This will be discussed more fully at a future meeting.

Other Business

Wayne thanked Sandy for all her work on the commission.

ADJOURN: 3:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 16, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in the North Santiam Room (1st Floor) at Public Works.